

EC Partners

- Local NGOs
- Ministry of Education
- School directions
- Religious authorities

Facts and Figures

- **12 young leaders** were given training on Principles of Human Rights and how to convey what they learned to the young in the targeted regions
- **683 youngsters** benefited from **91 workshops/sessions** on fostering a culture on Human Rights in the region
- **70 youngsters** from the **3 different communities** participated in a workshop to express the knowledge acquired on HR issues
- A publication illustrating the art of youngsters on the topic of HR



Human Rights and Democracy

Action for intercommunity dialogue in South-Lebanon

"Perhaps the most significant achievement of ADICS was to allow young people belonging to different communities to meet and unite under common values"

Pierre Wanna, Project Coordinator



Context

Lebanese Youth in the targeted region at the South of Lebanon suffers from sectarian divisions resulting from the social and political conditions prevailing in the region. The project aims at minimising or even neutralising the effects created by this sectarian split among those youngsters by initiating an inter-community dialogue within 3 targeted regions at the south of Lebanon belonging to 3 different communities (Druze, Christians and Muslims). This would be achieved through the promotion of a culture of human rights values highlighted by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights within the 3 targeted groups and regions in Lebanon.

Objective

- Promote the Values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights within the targeted groups/regions;
- Encourage citizenship participation of the targeted group (young);
- Promote the spirit of creativity among youngsters and encourage them to express themselves in a creative manner on their concept of human rights issues;
- Develop a community dialogue among youngsters of the 3 targeted groups belonging to 3 different communities/religions.

Impact: What has been achieved?

- Remarkable commitment of 12 Young Leaders selected to promote human rights among youngsters in the region;
- The organisation of a workshop where 70 youngsters belonging to the 3 targeted regions participated to express their understanding of the concept of Human Rights;
- Publication of artwork produced by the young participants at the workshop, expressing their understanding of human rights; this will be disseminated among youngsters in other Lebanese regions.

Institutional Reform and Democracy

Action for inter-community dialogue in South-Lebanon

"ADICS - Action for Inter Community Dialogue in South Lebanon"

The general objective of ADICS has been to develop intercommunity dialogue amongst youth in South Lebanon through the promotion of human rights values. The area targeted by the project is characterised by its diversity. Indeed, three main communities – Druze, Christian and Muslim – live side by side in the villages of Hasbaya, Marjayoun and Khiam. As such, the area can be considered a microcosm of the Lebanese society.

ADICS is an initiative precisely aiming at encouraging young people to break sectarian based boundaries, at the same time promoting human rights values into the local community through youth activities carried out by a group of motivated Youth Leaders. Based on a peer to peer approach, the ADICS project set out to train a group of 12 Young Leaders on the notions of human rights and democracy in addition to developing their communications skills, empowering them to train their peers. The freshly trained young leaders were responsible in their turn for conducting awareness raising sessions in the three selected villages, initially targeting 360 students. Thanks to the motivation and enthusiasm of the Young Leaders however, more than 683 high school students and young school drop-outs were reached.

The 34 days war that broke out in the summer of 2006 ravaging once more South Lebanon seemed for a while to have buried the ADICS project achievements under the rubble of a devastating conflict. By December 2006 however, activities resumed slowly and it was felt that some values were acquired durably in the minds of the Young Leaders. In February 2007, a creative workshop (writing and drawing competition) gathered participants from the schools targeted by the programme, giving youngsters a chance to express their interpretation of the values acquired through the ADICS project. A small booklet containing the artworks of the participants has been published to share this great experience more broadly and in order to encourage other civil society organisations to undertake similar experiences throughout Lebanon.

Perhaps the most significant achievement of ADICS was to allow young people belonging to different communities to meet for the first time, to visit each others' villages and families, to become friends and to unite under common values. As put it one of the Young Leaders: *"To know the other is to know they are the same."*

